

Ser. No.10/519,043
Amdt. dated April 15, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2008

PU020320

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Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 21, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Thibadeau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,565,909).

The present invention, as recited by the amended claim 1, describes a method for controlling a television signal receiver having an emergency alert function with an associated setup process, said setup process comprising: receiving an input representing a geographical area; and providing a predetermined output when a distance between a reference point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance.

It is respectfully asserted that Thibadeau fails to disclose "providing a predetermined output when a distance between a reference point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance," as described in current claim 1.

Thibadeau teaches that "location specific messages or programming are generally broadcast and selectively filtered by user terminals which have encoded one or more arbitrary locations of interest. The area surrounding a user, a remote location, a route to be travelled, or the like may be selected for receipt of local warnings, local commercial messages, and the like. A set-top receiver being a preferably tunable apparatus capable of receiving digital information transmitted by a variety of means. Transmitted messages contain information targeted to geographical groups of users, with location designation coding accompanying location-specific messages. A geographic location selection code is entered into a data processor coupled to the user's receiver to define the user's selected location(s) of interest. The processor receives the information segment and its designation code and compares the designated location to the selected one." (Thibadeau Abstract)

The Office Action asserts that Thibadeau "discloses a method for controlling a television signal receiver having an emergency alert function with an associated setup process, said setup process comprising (Col. 3 lines 35-40): receiving an input representing

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a geographical area; and providing a predetermined output when a distance between a reference point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance (Col. 4 lines 46-50)."

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's assertion that Thibadeau discloses "providing a predetermined output when a distance between a reference point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance." Instead, the cited portion of Thibadeau states, "The end users have control of the geographic definition and can arrange to see, store, or otherwise process only messages relevant to selected geographic areas without having to process messages which are outside their area of interest."

Thus, Thibadeau is concerned with user selection of a geographical area for which messages will be included, along with presentation of messages relevant to the selected area. This is in contrast to the present invention in which an "output message 60 may for example inform the user that the location of the geographical area selected at step 43 is not close enough to the location of the geographical area selected at step 41 (i.e., LOCATION 1), and prompt the user to select another geographical area." (Specification, page 12, lines 1-4 and Fig. 6) Thibadeau restricts presentation of messages based upon the selected geographic area, whereas the present invention is concerned with restricting selection of the geographical areas themselves. Further, Thibadeau states "end users have control of the geographic definition" (Col. 4 lines 46-50), whereas the present invention can remove user control by prompting the user for another selection if the currently selected area is too distant. (Specification, page 12, lines 1-4 and Fig. 6)

Therefore, Thibadeau fails to disclose "providing a predetermined output when a distance between a reference point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance," as described in claim 1.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Thibadeau that makes the present invention as claimed in claim 1 unpatentable. It is further submitted that

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previously presented independent claims 8 and 15 are allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Since dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21 are dependent from allowable independent claims, respectively, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 9, and 16, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thibadeau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,565,909).

Claims 6, 13, and 20, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thibadeau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,565,909), in view of Lemelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,084,510).

As claims 6, 13, and 20 are dependent upon allowable claims 1, 8, and 15 respectively, as described above, it is respectfully submitted that they too are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

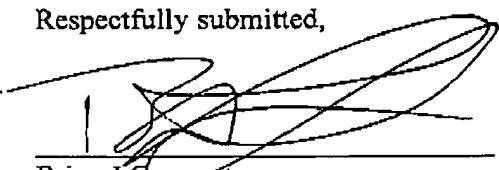
Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

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No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to
Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,



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Patent Operations
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